

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-09 CEQ-01 EPA-01 INT-05 SMI-01  
EB-08 COME-00 CTME-00 /038 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:EFMCWILLIAMS, JR.:JY  
APPROVED BY EA:ROAKLEY  
EA/TIMBS:HMEINHEIT  
EA/VLC:SLYNE  
OES/ENP/EN:CSANDERS (SUBS)

-----084390 121138Z /21

R 112135Z SEP 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY BERN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, LA, TH, BE

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL SMUGGLING OF THAI ANIMALS VIA LAOS

REF: STATE 221833 (NOTAL)

1. A US CITIZEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE "INTERNATIONAL PRIMATE PROTECTION LEAGUE" HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING THE SMUGGLING OF ANIMALS OUT OF THAILAND VIA LAOS.

2. ANIMALS CAPTURED IN THAILAND ARE REPORTEDLY SMUGGLED INTO LAOS ON A REGULAR BASIS FROM THAILAND. ONCE IN LAOS THE ANIMALS ARE GIVEN FALSE LAO PAPERS IDENTIFYING THEM  
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AS HAVING BEEN CAPTURED IN LAOS. THE ANIMALS ARE THEN SHIPPED TO BANGKOK FOR SHIPMENT TO WORLD MARKETS.

3. THE OPERATION IS CENTERED IN BANGKOK AND RUN BY MR. KAMPENG PLOENTHAM OF THE "BANGKOK WILDLIFE COMPANY," ACCORDING TO THE REPORT "A NOTORIOUS ANIMAL SMUGGLING OPERATION."

4. ON AUGUST 12 A SHIPMENT OF ANIMALS ARRIVED IN BANGKOK FROM LAOS, SHIPPED BY "LAOTIAN ZOO" P.O. BOX 790, VIENTIANE. THE ANIMALS WERE SHIPPED FROM BANGKOK IN THREE SHIPMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

A. AUGUST 14: SWISS AIR FLIGHT NO. 305 TO JEAN DE CONINCK, ST. DENIS-WEST, BELGIUM. THE SHIPMENT CONSISTED OF 2 TAPIRS ND 3 LEOPARD CATS.

B. AUGUST 15: SABENA FLIGHT NO. 264 TO ZOO PARK, CORTENRINE, BELIGUM. THE SHIPMENT CONSISTED OF 1 TAPIR.

C. AUGUST 16: SABENA FLIGHT NO. 288 (DESTINATION UNKNOWN) THE SHIPMENT CONSISTED OF THE FOLLOWING: 38 WHITETAILED GIBBONS; 1 WHITE CHEEKED GIBBON (THE ONLY ANIMAL IN THE AUGUST 12 SHIPMENT FROM LAOS THAT WAS NATIVE TO LAOS); PILEATED GIBBON AND 50 STUMP TAIL MACQUES.

5. THE SOURCE FOR THIS REPORT SAID THAT THE ABOVE OPERATION IS ILLEGAL UNDER THAI LAW.

6. FOR BANGKOK: THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION IN INTERIOR (FWS/LE) IS AWARE OF THIS REPORT. FWS/SE SPECIAL AGENT T. GROSZ WILL BE IN BANGKOK SEPTEMBER 20-26 TO MEET WITH EMBASSY STAFF AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON ENDANGERED SPECIES TRAFFICKING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(REFTEL). EMBASSY MAY WISH TO DISCUSS ANY INFORMATION IT HAS ON THIS REPORT WITH HIM.  
CHRISTOPHER

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NNNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SMUGGLING, ANIMALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Drafter:** EFMCWILLIAMS, JR.:JY  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** INTERNATIONAL SMUGGLING OF THAI ANIMALS VIA LAOS  
**TAGS:** SENV, LA, TH, BE  
**To:** BANGKOK  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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